



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS ACTIVITY FACT SHEET

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION



CMA support to international treaty

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity (CMA) has a close relationship with the implementation of a treaty that seeks to rid the world of the threat chemical weapons pose to international security. The CMA director acts as the Army Implementing Agent for executing the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), ensuring CMA carries out Army Regulation 525-92, which states that the Center for Treaty Implementation and Compliance (CTIC) manages implementation and compliance activities, in accordance with the CWC.

CTIC, located at CMA Headquarters at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, is part of a U.S. host team for storage, Schedule 1 and destruction inspections that oversees CWC compliance. CTIC prepares initial visits and final engineering reviews by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the international organization headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands, that verifies CWC implementation.

CTIC also is responsible for all notifications, reports and briefings submitted to the OPCW Technical Secretariat, and assists Army sites with refuting allegations during challenge inspections. The United States is responsible for hosting Ambassador level visits for the OPCW Executive Council for an overview of the destruction programs.

CWC background

On April 29, 1997, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, known as the CWC or chemical weapons treaty, entered into force. The United States was one of the first countries to sign and ratify the CWC, making it a State Party. As of February 2017, 192 nations have ratified the CWC.

The CWC prohibits States Parties from:

- Developing, producing, acquiring, retaining or transferring chemical weapons
- Using chemical weapons
- Engaging in any military preparations to use chemical weapons
- Assisting, encouraging or inducing anyone, in any way, to engage in any activity prohibited under the CWC.

The CWC requires States Parties with chemical weapons or chemical weapons production facilities to destroy them in an environmentally safe manner, and forbids disposal by open pit burning, land burial or dumping in any water body. The OPCW monitors participating nations to ensure activities comply with treaty requirements.



Personnel pull the first treaty sample at the treaty office facility.

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PCAPP EDS operators ensuring treaty compliance.

U.S. achievements

The CWC required participating countries to destroy 100 percent of their chemical weapons stockpiles within 10 years, or by April 29, 2007, for original signatories. The CWC set intermediate stockpile destruction deadlines, including 1 percent destroyed by April 2000, and 20 percent by April 2002. The United States received an extension to the 45 percent milestone, which it met on June 18, 2007.

In April 2006, the United States notified the OPCW that it did not forecast 100 percent stockpile destruction by the five-year extension to the 2007 deadline, which was April 29, 2012. However, it remained firmly committed to the CWC, and continued to ensure stockpile destruction under international observation as quickly and safely possible.

The United States completed operations at all incinerator facilities in 2012, leaving about 10 percent of the original stockpile to be destroyed. The Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives is responsible for constructing and operating neutralization-based destruction facilities at Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colorado, and Blue Grass Army Depot, Kentucky, to destroy the remaining 10 percent of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile. The Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Explosive Destruction System (PCAPP EDS) operated from March 2015 to February 2016, destroying 560 items that could not be processed through the PCAPP Main Plant, which began operations in September 2016.

In addition to destroying approximately 90 percent of its chemical weapons stockpile since CWC entry-into-force, the United States met the all OPCW deadlines to destroy its unfilled munitions and binary projectile inventory, former chemical weapon production facilities, and all binary chemical weapon materiel.

As of January 2016 the OPCW reported that for all States Parties:

- 65,810 metric tons of chemical agent have been verifiably destroyed
- 4.97 million, or 57.32 percent of the 8.67 million chemical munitions and containers covered by the CWC have been verifiably destroyed
- 93 percent of the declared CWPfS have been inactivated and 90 of the 97 CWPfS declared to the OPCW have either been destroyed or converted for peaceful purposes
- The OPCW has conducted 3,027 inspections of chemical weapon-related sites

The CWC encourages international cooperation between States Parties in the peaceful use of chemistry, and provides assistance and protection to States Parties threatened or attacked by chemical weapons. CMA and CTIC provide vital support in support of the CWC.

Additional Resources: Detailed CWC and OPCW information can be found at www.opcw.org.

